


REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement of March 8, 2004, Applicants hereby elect Invention I, corresponding to Claims 1-60. Applicants have canceled Claims 61-68 corresponding to Invention II and Claims 69-74 corresponding to Invention III. This cancellation is being made without prejudice to the filing of any divisional applications for these and/or other claims. This election is without traverse because Applicants agree that a determination of the unpatentability of Invention I would not necessarily imply the unpatentability of Invention II or Invention III.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request favorable examination and allowance of Claims 1-60.

It is not believed that an extension of time and/or additional fee(s)-including fees for net addition of claims-are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy J. O'Sullivan
Registration No. 35,632

Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: M.S. Non-fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 6, 2004.


Traci A. Brown